



EVERY STURGEON COUNTS

Boat Kit
Website



EMERGENCY STURGEON LIVE RELEASE BOAT KIT PROGRAM 2026

The Emergency Sturgeon Live Release Boat Kit Program directly supports harm reduction and recovery of the endangered Nechako White Sturgeon population.

The Boat Kit Program, established in 2011, is administered by the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI), a group dedicated to the recovery of the endangered white sturgeon within the Nechako watershed. **Between 2011-2025, 114 sturgeon were reported as by-catch and of those 101 (88%) were released live as part of the Boat Kit Program!**

The goals of this program are to:

Reduce accidental harm to sturgeon and the sturgeon population as a result of sturgeon by-catch associated with net fisheries.

Collect data about sturgeon to help understand their movements and biology in the watershed.

The NWSRI will:

Provide Boat Kits to First Nation communities that participate in the First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial Salmon Fishery.

Compensate First Nation communities to augment or create a Fisheries Monitor position to locally promote, support, and report on sturgeon by-catch.

How do you use the Boat Kit?

- Keep the kit with you while you are net fishing.
- If you accidentally catch a sturgeon, use the kit supplies to safely release it from the net.
- If it is safe for the fish, fill in the included reporting data form by collecting the following details about the sturgeon... estimated length, presense of tags (PIT or radio antennae), missing scute, and more. Please take photos too!! You can use this link to get to the **online version of the reporting form** (scan QR Code).
- Submit the form with the photos to the Fisheries Monitor and/or to the NWSRI.



The Boat Kit Program is free. Replacement supplies are provided for free. Email us to get a Boat Kit.

Email the NWSRI at info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org
www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org | Facebook @NWSRI

Reporting sturgeon by-catch will NOT result in any enforcement action, penalties, or restrictions on fishing activities.